



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 15L
Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 5:00 pm
Council Chambers, GH 111

Called to Order at 5:01 pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Ali, Almeida, Burke, Cao, Clayton, Dales, D'Souza, Enriquez, Guarna, Hsu, Manning, McDougall, Mirza, Muramatsu, Mutoigo, Nadarajah, Nestico-Semianiw, Ngo, Oliver, Pakkal, Pita, Pour-Bahreini, Stegmaier, Yazdankia
Absent Excused	Caramento, Ibe, Krause, Tambakis
Absent	Faruqui, Jama
Late	D'Angela, Gillis, Kula, Osazuwa, Sun
Others Present	Mike Gill (Spark Coordinator), Ryan Deshpande (Diversity Services Assistant Director), Alex Wilson (TAC Coordinator), Patricia Kousoulas (McMaster Science Society President), Christine Yachouh (Advocacy Coordinator), Nishan Zewge-Abubaker (Diversity Services Director), Raymond Khanano (Horizons Coordinator), NikiAnn Brideau (MISCA Liaison), Ryan MacDonald (MSU Member), J. Bauman (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Inna Berditchevskaia

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Oliver, **seconded** by D'Souza that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Guarna, **seconded** by McDougall to move Delegations from the Floor to after Report Period.

- Guarna stated she was having difficulties with getting the presentations ready, and needed a few extra minutes.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Oliver, **seconded** by Hsu to add the following motion as Business Item #6: **Moved** by Oliver, **seconded** by Hsu that the Assembly grant Jethro Krause a leave of absence from his duties as the SRA Finance Commissioner from Sunday, January 17 to Thursday, January 28.

- Guarna recommended voting this motion down as there were a total of four Commissioners asking for a leave of absence. Guarna suggested amending the motion currently on the agenda.

Vote on Motion

Passes by General Consent

Amendment

Moved by Osazuwa, **seconded** by D'Angela to add the following motion as Business Item #7: **Moved** by Osazuwa, **seconded** by D'Angela that the Assembly grant Brandon Stegmaier and Miranda Clayton a leave of absence from their Commissioner duties from Sunday, January 17 to Thursday, January 28.

Passes by General Consent

Vote on Agenda

Moved by Oliver, **seconded** by D'Souza that the agenda be adopted as amended.

Passes Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- The Chair welcomed the Assembly back and hoped everyone had a relaxing break. The Chair asked all observers to sign the Observers List at the back. The Chair reminded the Assembly that outreach hours must be submitted within 24 hours of the add-drop period. The outreach hours must include a specific location, not just a building.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by McDougall, **seconded** by Clayton that the Assembly approve the minutes from SRA 15K – November 29, 2015 as presented.

In Favour: 25 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

REPORT PERIOD

1. Arts & Science Caucus – Almeida presented

- Almeida summarized her report.

2. Business Caucus – Stegmaier presented

- Stegmaier summarized the report.

Questions

- Osazuwa asked why there was a change in the Business caucus leader.
- Stegmaier explained that Tambakis had the opportunity to participate in MARS Apprentice, which is a huge time commitment. Tambakis did not want the caucus leader responsibilities to fall to the wayside so he stepped down.

3. Engineering Caucus – Mirza presented

- Mirza summarized her report.

4. Bylaws & Procedures Committee – Nadarajah presented

- Nadarajah summarized the report.

5. Services Committee – Stegmaier presented

- Stegmaier summarized his report.

6. Executive Board – Nadarajah presented

- Nadarajah summarized her report.

7. Vice-President Finance – D’Angela presented

- D’Angela noted there had been one change since he wrote the report. D’Angela met with Karen McQuigge from the Alumni Association to set up an endowment for an emergency bursary. One option is to give the University a large amount of money where the interest from that endowment funds the bursary every year. Another option is to have a depleting amount of money, so the bursary would not exist in perpetuity. D’Angela stated he would be bringing forward a motion to the next meeting to rescind the Emergency Bursary operating policy so the Assembly can have a discussion on the direction and future of the bursary.

DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR

1. Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance – Nestico-Semianiw and Christine Yachouh presented

Moved by Nestico-Semianiw, **seconded** by Dales that the parameters for the OUSA Delegation be set at 15 minutes for the presentation and 15 minutes for questions.

In Favour: 23 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

- Nestico-Semianiw and Yachouh went over the presentation with the Assembly.

Questions

- Gillis stated the letter estimates that a tuition freeze would cost \$106 million, and the total amount of unused tax credits is around \$340 million. Gillis asked why OUSA would not ask for a reduction in tuition, as there would still be money left over.
- Nestico-Semianiw stated that another ask is to expand financial assistance and to make the OSAP grants more equitable. Nestico-Semianiw stated it was a delicate balance of asks, and Queen’s Park is more interested in financial assistance than a reduction of tuition. Nestico-Semianiw stated that OUSA is confident that they could see a tuition freeze and the extra would be reallocated into more useful financial aid, which would benefit all students as well as providing extra assistance to those students in need.
- Gillis asked if there was a plan for the additional \$232 million in unused tax credits.
- Nestico-Semianiw stated he would circulate the brief. If OSAP is expanded, that additional cost would be around \$232 million.

2. MACgreen – Guarna presented

Moved by Osazuwa, **seconded** by Hsu that the parameters for the MACgreen Delegation be set at 15 minutes for the presentation and 15 minutes for questions.

Passes Unanimously

- Guarna went over the presentation with the Assembly.

Questions

- Clayton asked if the current MACgreen Coordinator was present.
- Guarna stated that they were not, but the Coordinator agreed that a service was not necessary at this time. The Coordinator agreed that MACgreen was not having the most impact on campus.

- Mirza asked for more information on the advocacy initiatives of MACgreen.
- Guarna stated that MACgreen has listed a number of advocacy initiatives in its year plans over the years, but nothing concrete has been done by the service. Other groups on campus have worked on these initiatives, and MACgreen has not seen strong campaigns.
- Mirza asked if there were any ideas of campaigns MACgreen could run.
- Guarna stated that with any campaign, the goal is to engage students and to educate students on a specific issue, or to help students learn something new or think about something they had not previously considered. Guarna has been talking with the MAC Farmstand Director to create an educational initiatives executive, whose role would focus on campaigns to educate students on the importance of sustainable and local eating.
- Wilson asked what the ideal budget would be for a sustainability committee.
- Guarna stated there would not be any dedicated funding, and the committee could apply for special funding, similar to the MSU Wants You working group.
- Nadarajah asked what University committees MACgreen currently sits on, and if the MSU would continue to have a seat on those committees.
- Guarna stated the biggest one is the President's Advisory Committee on Natural Lands. Guarna was invited to sit on the committee. Guarna thought the MACgreen Coordinator would be a better fit. There will continue to be an opportunity to have student voices at the table.
- Gillis asked how many paid staff worked for MACgreen.
- Guarna noted the only paid staff member was the coordinator.
- Mirza asked where the MACgreen budget would go if the service did not exist.
- Guarna stated the funds would be absorbed into the operating fund and reallocated where needed. Guarna noted there would likely be an increase to the special projects or educational initiatives budgets in the next fiscal year.
- McDougall asked if the sustainability committee would be for advocacy campaigns or if they would also run programming.
- Guarna did not see the committee running events. Guarna thought that MACgreen running events diluted the efforts. Attention was being drawn away from the efforts of University departments that have full time staff working on initiatives. Guarna noted that it was not to say that things might change in the future. For comparison, Guarna highlighted that the entire budget for MACgreen was equivalent to the MacVotes campaign. MACgreen has not had anywhere close to the same impact as the MacVotes campaign.
- Gillis asked how a committee could facilitate community clean ups.
- Guarna stated that MACgreen currently alternates hosting clean ups with Athletics & Recreation. SCSN also hosts community clean ups. Both groups will continue to host these events.
- Mirza asked if MACgreen was evaluated in a previous Services Committee review.
- Yachouh noted that a MACgreen survey was hosted last year, but received very few responses. From those students who did respond, the overwhelming theme was that they wanted to see MACgreen host more campaigns.
- Guarna stated it was critical that the MSU continue to advocate and push the University on sustainability initiatives. The University maintains an infrastructure for these initiatives. For example, the MSU started the McMaster Teaching and Community Garden initiative, and it is now run by the Office of Sustainability.

INFORMATION PERIOD

- Osazuwa reported that the MSU presented a budget submission to the University, advocating for a tuition freeze. Osazuwa was looking for students interested in helping to plan Light Up the Night, and anyone interested can send him an email. The MSU Wants You Working Group Committee created a document outlining job opportunities with the MSU. Osazuwa encouraged members to circulate the document and encourage their constituents to apply to these opportunities.
- Clayton reported that the McMaster Marching Band was looking to increase their membership. No audition is needed, and MMB will assist with rental costs if a student does not have an instrument.
- Deshpande stated that Diversity Week would be starting on January 18, and they will be in the MUSC atrium daily. There will be a lot of smaller programming and workshops, and everyone is invited and encouraged to

attend. Deshpande noted that Kim Milan would be coming to TwelvEighty on January 27 as part of the week's programming.

- D'Souza advised that Spark registration closes at midnight and asked members to encourage their first year constituents to register for the program. D'Souza noted that Spark would be hosting a workshop for off campus learning.
- Nestico-Semianiw reported that the MSU facilitates the selection process of the spring valedictorians. Each program that has a valedictorian has a selection committee, and each committee needs a student representative. Nestico-Semianiw asked each caucus to provide the name of an interested student to be on the selection committee. Nestico-Semianiw stated it would not be a huge time commitment.
- Oliver stated that the University Affairs Committee was working with Spark to host a first year feedback forum. The event will be on February 1 from 1-5pm, and will be a round table discussion, similar to the accessibility forum. Oliver noted they were still looking for note-takers, and asked members to volunteer if they were available.
- Yachouh asked members to talk to students about the Tuition 101 campaign. A stack of letters will be left in the MSU office if students are looking to sign.
- Khanano reported that Horizons executive job applications would be live next week. Executive positions have a lot of autonomy and it will be an awesome time.
- Guarna thanked members for attending the SRA Professional Development Day. Guarna stated she would be sending out a feedback form to those who attended. Guarna is hoping to run another session in the spring. If members have any ideas on what they would like to see, please advise. Guarna stated these skills would be good for outside of the Assembly.

QUESTION PERIOD

- No questions were asked during Question Period.

BUSINESS

1. Clubs Ratification

Moved by D'Angela, **seconded** by Osazuwa that the Assembly ratify the clubs recommended by the Clubs Administrator for the 2015-2016 academic year, as circulated.

- D'Angela explained that there is a second opportunity for clubs to be ratified in the second semester. The Clubs Administrator has recommended an additional 19 clubs be ratified.
- Sun asked if every club that applied was ratified.
- Osazuwa noted some applications were not recommended for ratification.
- Clayton explained that there tends to be a lot of confusion with applications. There are a lot of clubs that are close to the ones trying to be created. When a club is rejected, the Clubs Administrator provides feedback on how to get ratified in the future.
- Nadarajah asked if there was anything to limit the number of clubs we have.
- D'Angela stated there are guidelines on who can be a club. The criteria states that a group needed to be unique. If there is something students want to do that does not currently exist, we allow them to become a club so long as they follow all of the rules.
- Sun asked about the status of McMaster Barbell, as there is no other lifting club on campus.
- Clayton stated that if they are not on the list, it means they either did not apply or they did not have a strong application for ratification.

Vote to Ratify

Passes Unanimously

2. Leave of Absence

Moved by Oliver, **seconded** by Stegmaier that the Assembly grant Blake Oliver a leave of absence from her duties as the SRA University Affairs Commissioner from Sunday, January 17 to Thursday, January 28.

- Oliver stated that she sent out a memo outlining the plan for the committee during her absence. Oliver was confident that work would continue to get done while she was away.
- Gillis asked why she was seeking a leave of absence.
- Oliver stated she would like to participate on a presidential campaign team and the rules state that she must take a leave of absence.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 27 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 1
Opposed: Sun
Abstentions: Oliver
Motion Passes

3. Maroon Papers

Moved by Nestico-Semianiw, **seconded** by D'Angela that the Assembly approve the Maroon Papers for the MSU Accessibility, Ancillary Fees, Course Registration, Deferred Maintenance & Sustainable Growth, Mental Health, Supporting High Quality Classroom Instruction, and Undergraduate Course Management general policy papers.

- Nestico-Semianiw explained that Maroon Papers are short briefs for our policy papers that make them easier to read. Over the past few months, the research assistants and University Affairs committee created these Maroon Papers. The PCRs are straight from the policy, but since the paragraph synopsis is technically new information, the Assembly is required to pass the papers. These are not contentious, unless a member thinks the synopsis is a misrepresentation of the policy paper. If approved, these will be formatted to look like the other Maroon Papers online.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

4. Rescind OPERATING POLICY 1.6.2 - MACGREEN

Moved by Guarna, **seconded** by Clayton that the Assembly rescind OPERATING POLICY 1.6.2 – MACGREEN.

- Clayton stated it was time for the Assembly to analyze the MSU's services critically. Services are created when there is a gap where the University is not providing a service.

Amendment

Moved by Osazuwa, **seconded** by Stegmaier that the motion be amended to include "effective April 30, 2016".

- Osazuwa stated that without this amendment, the policy would be rescinded immediately and the service would no longer exist. Osazuwa stated the intent is for the service to run for the duration of the term.

Vote on Amendment

In Favour: 28 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1
Abstentions: Yazdankia
Motion Passes

Main Motion

- Mirza asked when a new PTM for MACgreen would be hired.
- Guarna stated that since these discussions have been happening for a while, a decision was made to postpone accepting applications for this position until the Assembly made a decision. No one has applied or has been hired for the 2016-2017 year.
- Gillis asked if this had gone to the Bylaws & Procedures Committee or the Operations Committee to see what other changes needed to be made.
- Guarna stated it did not, but did not think it would be necessary. If a Constitutional amendment was made, the MSU has 60 days to make any changes. Guarna stated that if there were other changes necessary, they would come forward at a later meeting if this motion were to pass.
- Gillis asked if Guarna would be comfortable postponing this decision and making all of the changes at once.
- Osazuwa stated that the operating policy would be in effect until April 30, and it would be inappropriate to make changes to other policies before then.

Vote on Motion

Moved by Guarna, **seconded** by Clayton that the Assembly rescind OPERATING POLICY 1.6.2 – MACGREEN effective April 30, 2016.

In Favour: 27 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 1
Opposed: Mirza
Abstentions: Sun
Motion Passes

5. OPERATING POLICY 3.4 – VALEDICTORIAN SELECTION

Moved by Nestico-Semianiw, **seconded** by Dales that the SRA approve changes to OPERATING POLICY 3.4 – VALEDICTORIAN SELECTION as circulated.

- Nestico-Semianiw stated that these were quick changes to update the language in a few spots.
- Clayton advised she had seen the changes before they were sent to the Assembly and they looked good to her.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

6. Leave of Absence – Finance Commissioner

Moved by Oliver, **seconded** by Stegmaier that the Assembly grant Jethro Krause a leave of absence from his duties as the SRA Finance Commissioner from Sunday, January 17 to Thursday, January 28.

- Oliver stated that Krause circulated a memo that outlined who would take over his committee responsibilities while he was away.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 28 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Gillis
Motion Passes

7. Leaves of Absence – Services and Operations Commissioners

Moved by Osazuwa, **seconded** by D'Angela that the Assembly grant Brandon Stegmaier and Miranda Clayton a leave of absence from their Commissioner duties from Sunday, January 17 to Thursday, January 28.

- Clayton advised that she would like to participate on a presidential campaign team. The Operations Committee will not be meeting while Clayton is on leave. Many goals have already been accomplished, and there is nothing pressing. Clayton stated that there would be things happening before and after her break.
- Guarna advised that Commissioners would be handing in their keys and would be locked out of their email accounts while on leave.
- Stegmaier advised he also wanted to participate on a presidential campaign team. The Services Committee would be meeting this week to figure out how things would work when he was away.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 27 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 2
Abstentions: Clayton, Stegmaier
Motion Passes

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. OPERATING POLICY 1.3.3 – CONSTITUENT OUTREACH

Moved by Clayton that the Assembly approve changes to OPERATING POLICY 1.3.3 – CONSTITUENT OUTREACH as circulated.

- Clayton stated that Maroon Minutes did not go as smoothly as planned. The amendments are to fix an oversight with the flow of information. Clayton worked with the Speaker and the Communications Officer to make the policy more clear. The changes explicitly state that the creators would give the document to the Communications Officer for formatting and posting.

Amendment

Moved by Clayton, **seconded** by Nadarajah to amend section 3.3.5 to read "Should the Administrative Assistants deem the draft appropriate for distribution, the creators are to immediately send the draft to the Communications Officer for formatting and publication."

- Clayton stated this was an oversight that needed to be corrected.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Main Motion

Moved by Clayton that the Assembly approve changes to OPERATING POLICY 1.3.3 – CONSTITUENT OUTREACH as circulated and amended.

Passes Unanimously

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

January 24, 2016
5:00pm
Council Chambers (GH 111)

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present Ali, Almeida, Burke, Cao, Clayton, Dales, D'Souza, Enriquez, Guarna, Hsu, Manning, McDougall, Mirza, Muramatsu, Mutoigo, Nadarajah, Nestico-Semianiw, Ngo, Oliver, Pakkal, Pita, Pour-Bahreini, Stegmaier, Yazdankia

Absent Excused Caramento, Ibe, Krause, Tambakis

Absent Faruqui, Jama

Late D'Angela, Gillis, Kula, Osazuwa, Sun

Others Present Mike Gill (Spark Coordinator), Ryan Deshpande (Diversity Services Assistant Director), Alex Wilson (TAC Coordinator), Patricia Kousoulas (McMaster Science Society President), Christine Yachouh (Advocacy Coordinator), Nishan Zewge-Abubaker (Diversity Services Director), Raymond Khanano (Horizons Coordinator), NikiAnn Brideau (MISCA Liaison), Ryan MacDonald (MSU member), J. Bauman (Recording Secretary)

Chair Inna Berditchevskaia

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by D'Souza, **seconded** by Cao that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes Unanimously

Adjourned at 6:51 pm

/jb